

Subject: Putting Resources in Our Neighborhoods

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[Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin](#)

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Putting More Police on the Streets

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Did you know that 458 of our sworn police officers are doing administrative jobs that require no formal police training?

That's the key finding of the [audit](#) my office recently released. Sworn officers in the LAPD are performing tasks such as managing the police department's social media accounts, maintaining equipment rooms and tracking the flow of documents. All of these jobs could be handed over to civilian employees, who, on average, earn \$44,000 per year less in wages and benefits than sworn officers.

Auditors put the cost of filling the 458 jobs with civilians at \$53.6 million per year--less than 4% of the LAPD's \$1.4 billion budget. Yes, that's an added cost. But wisely spending our money on less expensive civilian employees to do administrative tasks frees up our force of professional police officers to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Read: LA Times ["L.A. City Controller Says Too Many LAPD Cops Are Cubicle Police; Civilians Can Do That Work"](#)

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Putting More Public Art on View

 olympicmural.jpg

\$10 million.

That's how much our [auditors found](#) languishing unspent in the City's Arts Development Fee Trust Fund in 2014. The money was collected as a "1% for Art" fee from commercial developers to pay for public art installations near their real estate projects.

When we asked the Department of Cultural Affairs why the money hadn't been spent, they said they were hamstrung by a legal opinion that made it difficult to disburse the funds. So we asked the City Attorney's office to review the rules.

Which brings us to a recent sunny spring day astride the LA River, where I joined Mayor Garcetti and the arts community to launch CURRENT: LA, a new program that will put public art installations in neighborhoods across our City. CURRENT: LA was funded with a grant from the Bloomberg Foundation and matching funds collected under the 1% for the Arts fee.

"All great art is born of the metropolis," said the poet Ezra Pound. I'm proud that my office could play a role in bringing great art to our metropolis.

Discover [CURRENT: LA](#)

Audits In Action

Our audits and reports are being heard and policymakers are using our recommendations to change the way the City is run.

Putting More Response Teams in Touch with Victims of Domestic Violence

As the City Controller, I typically don't find myself advocating that more money be spent, but that's exactly what I recommended after reviewing the City's domestic violence programs last year. Our [audit](#) found the City's programs were underfunded, disjointed, and inconsistent across City neighborhoods.

But it looks like that's changing. In accordance with our recommendations, Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget calls for increasing funding for Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DART) to \$1.5 million for the coming fiscal year--up from \$1.027 million this year. Also, the DART program was expanded to all 21 LAPD divisions and the City is working on creating more family justice centers, which offer victims a single location where they can get social services and legal help. Crucially, this model was cited by the Department of Justice as the most effective way to keep victims safe and prosecute their offenders.

If you or someone you know is the victim of domestic violence, call the County Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-978-3600.

Putting More Animals in Happy Homes

The L.A. Dept. of Animal Services is reporting a 30% decline in euthanization of animals at the City's six shelters for the first three months of the year, compared to the same period in 2015. That's a save rate of 84%. We're heartened by the reported improvement since our September 2015 Audit of the Department, entitled "[Every Animal Counts](#)" -- in which we examined which City shelters were doing best and worst, and which animals were most in danger of being euthanized. There's still much more work to be done, however, for L.A. to truly live up to its goal of being a "no kill" City -- and we'll be watching the numbers to see how they pan out for the rest of the year.

No animal should lose its life for lack of space or for lack of a good home. You can help save a life and bring happiness into your home by adopting one of the many great pets in L.A. [Click here for more information.](#)

A Thousand Words...

Around the City...

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Remembrances...



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